



## Congressman Bud Cramer

November 2005

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In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Act and chartered the Agency we know today. Since TVA began, Alabama has never had an individual serve on its Board of Directors. However, as a result of the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, TVA expanded its Board from three to nine members, and this month, President Bush nominated Howard Thraikill from Huntsville to be the first Alabamian to serve. I congratulate Mr. Thraikill and look forward to working with him to ensure that TVA continues to provide its essential services throughout North Alabama.

*Bud Cramer*

### Washington Update

Representative Cramer, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced that conference reports for nine of the eleven Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Bills have been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. This month, the House approved conference reports for the Energy and Water, Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, Transportation-Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, and Science, State, Justice, and Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations bills. Furthermore, Cramer was a member of the joint House-Senate conference committees that approved the SSJC and Military Quality of Life Appropriations bills. Within these bills, Representative Cramer secured additional resources for North Alabama to enhance its infrastructure and community services. For more specific information about these pieces of legislation, please visit Representative Cramer's website at <http://cramer.house.gov>.

Also this month, Representative Cramer announced that the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation to prohibit state and local governments from seizing private property for economic development purposes. The Private Property Rights Protection Act specifically denies state and local governments from receiving federal economic development funds for two years if they use "eminent domain" for economic development. The legislation was in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut*. In June, the Supreme Court voted 5-to-4 to allow the City of New London to take over private land for construction of a private corporation's research facility. Cramer said, "This legislation provides much needed protection for landowners."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://CRAMER.HOUSE.GOV](http://Cramer.house.gov)**



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#### District Update

Representative Cramer hosted a series of community forums on combating methamphetamines with local law enforcement officers, district attorneys, County Department of Human Resources officials, and other community leaders from Colbert, Lauderdale, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan counties. According to statistics from the Drug Enforcement Agency, methamphetamines are the biggest drug threat in the State of Alabama. In 2004, the State had 385 meth lab incidents, which was the tenth highest in the nation. Cramer, a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control methamphetamine brought together these officials to discuss how the area could collectively use its resources to better prepare itself to fight against meth. Cramer said, "The methamphetamine problem is not a problem that can be overcome by Congress alone, nor is it a battle our states and local communities can win by themselves. We must fight the battle against meth together."

Also this month, Representative Cramer held a news conference to announce that Mark McDaniel has been invited by Representative Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.) to advise him on space, aeronautics, and other science issues. Representative Gordon is the Ranking Member of the House Science Committee. The House Science Committee is responsible for overseeing research and development programs at all non-defense federal agencies, including NASA. Mr. McDaniel is an attorney, a member of the graduate faculty at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, and is a professor at Faulkner University. He has experience as an educator dating back over three decades. In addition, he served three different NASA Administrators as a member of the NASA Advisory Council during the past four years.

Pictured on the right, Representative Cramer joined Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope and Microsoft Corporation's Southeast District Director of State Government Affairs Dustin Brighton to announce over \$200,000 in software grants to organizations in Alabama. Both Northwest Shoals Community College and the Florence City Schools System were recipients of the grants. The Microsoft Unlimited Potential software grants are targeted to organizations dedicated to increasing computer literacy and providing education and workforce training programs in areas across Appalachia. Cramer said, "These software grants will be a strong shot in the arm for Northwest Alabama. It will help ensure that our children and their teachers continue to have the resources needed to prepare for the future. I sincerely thank Microsoft and ARC for this generous donation"

